

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):      A portable flexible carrier for drinking fluid comprising

a flexible fluid container,

~~entirely encased within~~ an outer separable cover with a selectively sealable pouch to receive the flexible fluid container, the outer separable cover produced from a chemically hardened material which is impermeable to chemical toxins in liquid or gaseous form, biological agents and radioactive particles,

a sleeve provided at an open end of the selectively sealable pouch,

a tube connected to an opening of the flexible container and extending beyond the confines of ~~[[the]]~~ a cover interior through which drinking fluid can be removed by suction from the container,

a conduit produced from the chemically hardened material within which the entire length of the tube is encased,

an ON/OFF valve in communication with the tube to enable fluid to flow under suction from the carrier interior to the conduit, and

means for selectively sealing the cover interior and its contents from the atmosphere.

Claim 2 (Original); A carrier as claimed in claim 1 wherein the chemically hardened material comprises a fabric support covered by a protective complex which acts as a barrier to chemical toxins in liquid or gaseous form, biological agents and radioactive particles.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1 including shoulder straps to enable the carrier to be carried on the back of the user.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A carrier as claimed in claim 1 including a ~~selectively sealable pouch and~~ a sealable flap which is able to overlie an end of the pouch.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A portable flexible carrier comprising:  
~~a cover to receive a pouch and a fluid container[[],] the pouch substantially encasing the fluid container, the cover being made of a flexible chemically hardened material, the fluid container being made of a flexible material;~~

a cover with a pouch to receive the fluid container, the pouch having an open end with a sleeve, the cover made of a flexible chemically hardened material;

a first seal disposed at the sleeve of the pouch to selectively seal the pouch;

a flap disposed at the cover to substantially encase the pouch within the cover;

a second seal disposed at the flap to detachably couple the flap to the cover;

a tube with a first end and a second end extending from the cover, the first end received by the fluid container, the tube being made of a flexible impermeable material;

a valve disposed at the second end of the tube;

a tube conduit substantially surrounding the tube, the tube conduit being made of the flexible chemically hardened material; and

at least one shoulder strap disposed at the cover,

wherein the flexible chemically hardened material comprises a fabric support covered by a protective complex that provides a substantial barrier to chemical toxins in liquid or gaseous form, biological agents, and radioactive particles.